



CONNECTICUT STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

February 17, 2015

Senator Timothy Larson, Co-Chair Public Safety & Security Committee
Representative Stephen Dargan, Co-Chair Public Safety & Security Committee
Senator Anthony Guglielmo, Ranking Member Public Safety & Security Committee
Representative Lezlye Zupkus, Ranking Member Public Safety & Security Committee

Members of the Public Safety & Security Committee,

Raised House Bill #6911 – AA REQUIRING VERIFICATION TO REDUCE FALSE ALARMS

My name is Ted Schroll, Legislative Representative for the Connecticut State Firefighters Association. Our Association represents more than 26,000 paid and volunteer firefighters and Fire Chiefs in Connecticut. I would like to comment on the subject bill on the agenda for today's public hearing.

The Connecticut State Firefighters Association has some serious concerns with a portion of the language of this bill. It appears that within lines 68 thru 78 the language **REQUIRES** an alarm monitoring company to make a reasonable attempt to contact the subscriber of that property upon receiving an alarm. If no contact, and if a second contact number is provided to the monitoring company, it **REQUIRES** that company to make a second attempt to contact the subscriber to determine if the alarm is false. These actions go against all efforts of the fire service for early discovery or reporting of a fire. The reason for alarm monitoring is to provide quick reporting. It has been stated that for each one minute that a fire free burns, it quadruples in intensity. And this bill could require a monitoring company to expend the time to make 2 separate phone calls before making a **third** call to the municipality to send the fire department.

There is a monetary price that any municipality has to endure for their fire department to respond to a false alarm of fire. However, the price of a delay could be a citizen's life. We would rather respond ASAP to save that person's life. The municipal fire department would rather that you let them determine whether the alarm is false or not.

PLEASE DELETE THE WORDS "OR FIRE" FROM LINE 73 OF LCO #4112 FOR H. B. #6911.

Respectfully,

Ted Schroll Jr.

Ted Schroll Jr., Legislative Representative
Connecticut State Firefighters Association

Alarms2015